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Rural District of Daventry

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1959

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**JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS,**

Medical Officer of Health.



**TO : The Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council  
of Daventry**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, incorporating that of the Public Health Inspector.

The Vital Statistics for the year 1959 show that there were 185 deaths, 11 less than last year. This gives a standardised rate of 11.2 compared with the national figure of 11.6. Male deaths again exceeded female deaths, this year by 21. The great preponderance of deaths from the diseases of the heart and circulation is once more evident, making a total of 103, of which 33 died from coronary disease alone, while 33 died from other heart disease, and a further 26 from vascular lesions of the nervous system. Diseases of the heart and of the vascular system constitute therefore 55 per cent. of the total deaths. The causes of vascular degeneration are, at the present time, the object of much research, and one must hope that a knowledge and understanding of how to control arterial disease will soon emerge. The remaining scourge, cancer, continues to take its toll, resulting this year in 34 deaths, a decline of 4 on last year, but including 8 deaths from cancer on the lung, an increase of 2 on last year. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels together with cancer cause in the District over 70 per cent. of the total deaths. These are showing no decline and have tended to keep the expectation of life stationary for the past 5 years, and though more people live to get older the span of life is not increasing.

The total number of live births was 248, compared with 267 last year, of which 13 were illegitimate. There were only 3 infant deaths, two occurring in the first week of life, making a gratifying decline from the 9 infant deaths of last year.

The biennial incidence of measles increased the notification of infectious illnesses from 64 to 258, 211 cases of measles occurring as compared with only 30 last year. This illness, though highly infectious, is becoming like scarlet fever, more benign in character, though the complications of ear and eye infections and pneumonia still occur occasionally. Large numbers of children and adults were immunised against poliomyelitis and no cases of poliomyelitis were reported this year. Eleven cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred, 8 from a school, and 1 case of encephalitis in a woman of 64 years.

The infectious diseases, though now largely controlled, still do require some vigilance, as they remain a cause of much ill-health. One death only resulted from tuberculosis, but other diseases of the respiratory system remain both as a cause of death and of ill-health, and constitute the commonest groups of illness in the community. Influenza and bronchitis are the two most frequent causes of incapacity for work. We note with concern 8 deaths from influenza, and 8 from pneumonia .

The supervision of infection in the community is still very necessary and especially in respect of the more vulnerable members, the very young, the infirm and the aged. The necessity to have children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, and tuberculosis is once again stressed with the reminder to parents not to overlook the reinforcing dose for diphtheria before entering school.

The slum clearance programme continued in a satisfactory manner, and after four and a half years the Council has dealt with 390 houses, although the original 5 years' programme set out to deal with 294 houses. It should be stressed that many of the houses dealt with did not require new houses to be built in their place, since they were dealt with immediately on the death of the tenant or the vacation for some other reason. During this year action was taken in respect of 54 houses, under the various sections of the Act. It will be necessary for the Council to formulate a further programme early in the new year. It is hoped that those parishes which up to now have received little attention in the way of slum clearance will be included in such programme, though in many cases it will be a necessity to find building sites.

It is very pleasing to record that the sewage schemes for Lilbourne and Yelvertoft started at the latter end of the year. We hope that this pleasing progress will be extended soon to other parishes of the District.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to all members of the Staff, in particular those of the Public Health Department, for their assistance in the compilation of this report; also to the chairmen and members of the various committees for their help and encouragement. Thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer of Health for information on Immunisation and Vaccination.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices.

Church Walk,

DAVENTRY.

Telephones : Daventry 7 and 310.

# Daventry Rural District Council

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Members of the Housing, Estates Management and Public Health Committees :

Chairman of Housing Committee: Mr. Councillor J. W. Anscomb, J.P., C.C.  
(until May, 1959)  
Mr. Councillor G. E. Green  
(from May, 1959)

Chairman of Public Health Committee: Mr. Councillor J. W. Anscomb,  
(until May, 1959)  
Mr. Councillor S. Allen  
(from May, 1959)

Chairman of Estates Management Committee : Rev. E. J. A. Dunn.

Messrs. Councillors: J. O. Adams, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council until May, 1959); Mrs. G. L. Atterbury, F. W. Boddington, C. E. Browne, M.B.E., H. E. Burdett, A. R. Busby, E. R. Buswell, C. E. Gibbes, F. Harris, R. B. Harris, W. S. Harrison, W. A. Hart, H. A. Hupfield, D. H. Jelley (Chairman of the Council until May, 1959), W. J. Kirkby, Mrs. M. A. Lemon, Mrs. R. E. Lucas, H. A. Malin, Major J. K. Maxwell, Rev. D. H. S. Mould, W. J. Preece, C.C., Rev. M. T. Porteous, F. W. Robinson, T. W. Russell, W. O. Rydings, Mrs. C. M. S. Thornton, C.C., Rev. H. Volier, R. L. Wakeford, W. J. Webb, and A. L. Wilkins.

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Public Health Officers of the Council:

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. M. St. V. Dawkins, M.B.B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

also holds appointment of

Medical Officer of Health Daventry Borough and Brixworth Rural District:

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and County School Medical Officer.

Public Health Inspector: J. M. Harkness, R.S.I.J.B., M.P.H.I.A.

Public Health Inspector's Assistant : B. C. Lines.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,423
Population (based on Registrar-General's figures)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,480
Number of separate dwellings occupied	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,532
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£156,271
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£582

### Vital Statistics

Live Births: 248; Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	15.05
Still Births 6; Still Births Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	23.6
Total live and still births 254; Infant deaths 3.		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	11.8
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births, legitimate	...	12.03
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births, illegitimate	...	0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	...	8.06
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	5.24
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	nil

### Tables showing Births and Deaths

#### Live Births (rate per 1,000 total population).—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	117	118	235		
Illegitimate	10	3	13		
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	127	121	248	15.05	16.5

#### Still Births (rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	1	4	5		
Illegitimate	—	1	1		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	1	5	6	23.6	20.6

#### Deaths (rate per 1,000 total population)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
All Causes	103	82	185	11.2	11.6

	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Maternal Mortality	nil	.38

Deaths from Infectious Diseases	nil
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**Infant Mortality** (rate per 1,000 live births)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	2	1	3		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
	—	—	—		
	2	1	3	11.8	22.0

**Neo-Natal Mortality: Deaths under 4 weeks** (rate per 1,000 live births)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
	1	1	2	8.06	15.8

**Statistics showing Population and Numbers of Occupied Houses  
in each Parish of the District**

Parish	Population		Number of Occupied Houses		
	1931 census	1951 census	Private Houses	Council Houses	Total
Ashby St. Ledgers	210	169	51	—	51
Badby	440	478	112	60	172
Barby	471	536	95	40	135
Braunston	1015	1161	204	172	376
Brockhall	38	34	9	—	9
Byfield	868	796	177	119	296
Canons Ashby	49	42	14	—	14
Catesby	91	86	28	—	28
Charwelton	165	166	46	8	54
Clay Coton	71	51	15	4	19
Crick	681	728	199	56	255
Dodford	238	216	53	3	56
Elkington	69	62	19	—	19
Everdon	406	420	122	20	142
Farthingstone	177	174	52	8	60
Fawsley	29	21	9	—	9
Flore	786	896	237	104	341
Hellidon	148	160	54	4	58
Kilsby	501	558	143	67	210
Lilbourne	209	241	50	28	78
Long Buckby	2325	2316	657	205	862
Newnham	356	383	103	32	135
Norton	315	265	102	—	102
Preston Capes	156	167	54	6	60
Stanford	53	43	13	—	13
Staverton	319	361	83	30	113
Stowe-IX-Churches	219	180	66	4	70
Watford	324	281	87	8	95
Weedon Bec	1750	1734	282	179	461
Welton	358	381	83	39	122
West Haddon	714	704	205	56	261
Wilton	216	168	52	10	62
Winwick	153	89	35	—	35
Woodford Halse	1740	1764	418	200	618
Yelvertoft	349	462	109	32	141
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	16009	16293	4038	1494	5532
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## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District is largely rural, and though the principal occupation in the District is agriculture, the majority of the population are, however, employed in industry either in Daventry, Rugby, or Northampton. Woodford Halse contains a railway depot of considerable size, and at Weedon there is an Ordnance Depot. A few small industries are also scattered throughout the District. The London — Birmingham Motorway was completed and opened for general use early in November, and extends in the District from Flore to the Warwickshire border.

**Area.**—The area of the District was 79,423 acres, or 124.2 square miles which gives an average of one person to 4.7 acres or 132 persons to the square mile.

**Population.**—The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population for the district was 16,480, showing an increase of 110 compared with the figure for 1958. The natural increase in population, i.e., excess of births over deaths, was 63.

**Occupied Dwellings.**—There was a slight increase in the numbers of occupied dwellings, after deducting those dealt with under the Housing Acts

**Deaths.**—The total number of deaths recorded was 185, showing a decrease of 11 on the number for 1958. The standardised death rate for 1959 was 10.4 (calculated from the Registrar-General's comparability factor) compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. The comparability factor makes allowance for age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, and are adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institution in the area.

**Births.**—The number was 248, a decrease of 19 compared with the figure for 1958, and giving a standardised rate of 16.2 (calculated on the Registrar-General's comparability factor), compared with 16.5 for England and Wales, per 1,000 of the total population.

**Still Births.**—The figure for 1959 showed a decrease compared with that for 1958, it being 3 as compared with 6 the previous year, and gave a rate of 23.6 per 1,000 live and still births.

**Illegitimate Births.**—The number showed an increase compared with the previous year, 13 such births being recorded.

**Maternal Mortality.**—No deaths were recorded as being associated with child birth.

**Infant Mortality.**—The number of children under the age of 1 year who died was 3, as compared with 9 the previous year. Causes and ages of deaths are given in the table below.

**Neo-Natal Mortality.**—2 deaths occurred during first four weeks of life

#### Causes of Infants Deaths

Cause	Neo-Natal	1 to 12 months
Prematurity	2	
Pulmonary Collapse		1

It will be seen that two infant deaths this year occurred in the first month of life.

The List of the causes of death in the district during the year, classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948, as used for England and Wales, are given in the following table:—

Causes	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective or Paralytic Diseases	—	—	—
Cancer, Stomach	3	3	6
Cancer, Lung Bronchus	7	1	8
Cancer, Breast	—	3	3
Cancer, Uterus	—	—	—
Cancer, Other Malignant and Lymphatic	10	7	17
Leukemia, aleukemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	15	26
Coronary Disease of the Heart	27	6	33
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	2	6
Heart Disease (Other)	9	24	33
Other Circulatory Disease	1	4	5
Influenza	7	1	8
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Other Disease of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	6	6	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	2	—	2
	<hr/> 103	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 185

Diseases of the heart, and of the arteries supplying the heart, continue to be the commonest cause of death. There was a slight fall in total deaths from cancer but with an increase from 6 to 8 of cases of cancer of the lung. Diseases of the arteries supplying the brain provide the third largest cause of death. Diseases of the heart and arteries being the cause of 55% of the total deaths and, together with cancer, the cause of 70% of the total deaths. Infection remains still the cause of 30% of deaths, however, and we note that 8 died from influenza and 8 from pneumonia, with only 1 death from tuberculosis. Accidents caused 5 deaths, and there were 2 cases of suicide

Diseases of heart, circulation and cancer are showing no decline. They are all largely diseases of the older age groups. However, arterial disease may start earlier in some than others, coronary disease striking often in the prime of life. This mainly degenerative process is Atherosclerosis, and its cause is not yet determined, but many factors attributable to civilisation may be cited, which include sedentary life, diet, smoking, stress, and hormonal factors. None have been conclusively proved, but each may play its part. A man may indeed be considered to be "as old as his arteries," and until the causes and prevention of atheroma are determined the expectation of life may not be prolonged.

In the vanguard of death following closely behind come the cancers. Again diseases more common of the later years. Cancer is a disorder of growth, certain cells growing uncontrolled and destroying their host structure. Later they can disseminate to other parts of the body and further destroy. The causes that stimulate malignant growth are so far unknown and little can be done to prevent it. However, many cancers are curable, provided diagnosis is early and before the dissemination of secondary deposits takes place.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

**Laboratory Service.**—The Public Health Laboratory Service operating at the General Hospital, Northampton, was available for the diagnosis and analysis of specimens relative to infectious disease, and was free of cost to the local authority. An efficient and helpful service is provided, and we thank Dr. Hoyle for his constant co-operation and very helpful service.

**Ambulance Services.**—The ambulance maintained by the St. John Ambulance Brigade was used for all cases occurring in the District.

**Nursing in the Home.**—This service was provided directly by the County Council, who have their nurses living in various parishes of the District. The Home Help Service, also provided by the County Council, was in operation in several parishes of the District.

**Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—Infant Welfare Clinics were held at Long Buckby, Weedon, West Haddon, and Woodford Halse. Ante-Natal Clinics were held in Daventry, and mothers from the surrounding District were welcomed. Transport facilities were provided by the County Council in various parts of the District for mothers and children to attend clinics at a nearby centre.

**Hospitals.**—Those suffering from infectious disease were treated at Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton. During the year there were very few admittances from the District to this Hospital. Sufferers from tuberculosis who required institutional treatment were sent to either Creton or Rushden House Sanatoria.

All other general medical and surgical cases were treated at Northampton General Hospital, the Danetre Hospital, or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby. The treatment of patients at Danetre Hospital was of much benefit to the District. Relatives and friends were able to visit more frequently and with less travelling difficulties.

### WELFARE OF THE AGED

**(a) Home Help Service.**—The Home Help Service is of inestimable value in the prevention of breakdown in the aged, and many are able to remain in their own homes who would otherwise have to be removed to institutions. Several old people were kept under observation during the year.

**(b) National Assistance Act, 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**—It was necessary to take action under Section 47 in the case of one female person, who was aged and infirm.

(c) **Darby and Joan Clubs.**—These Clubs are supervised and managed by local Welfare Committees, voluntary bodies of local people. The Clubs usually meet fortnightly and the membership varies with the size of the village, those at Long Buckby, Weedon and Woodford Halse each having over 80 members. Programmes of entertainments are arranged for the meeting and tea is provided. Some clubs run a chiropody service. Grateful thanks are expressed to all those voluntary workers who give their time so freely for the welfare of the old people.

Clubs are held at:—

**Woodford Halse**—Membership over 80. Chairman, Mr. Councillor J. W. Anscomb, J.P., C.A.

**Long Buckby**—Membership 100. Chairman, Mrs. Kingston.

**Weedon**—Membership 96. Chairman, Mrs. Beard.

**West Haddon**—Membership 40. Chairman, Mrs. Crawley.

Many agencies are responsible for the care of old people, and include for the aged sick, the general practitioner and hospital services, for old people at home the services of the Health Visitor and the Home Help provided by the Health Department of the County Council, who also supply certain home equipment where necessary. The Welfare Department of the County Council control provision of homes which include the part 3 accommodation, and the District Council for the provision of individual houses for the old. The National Assistance Board contribute financially, and finally there are numbers of voluntary organisations, who run Darby and Joan Clubs, in the towns give “Meals on Wheels” services, arrange holidays at the seaside, and assist with chiropody and visiting in the homes.

The co-ordination and liaison between all these bodies can be happily fulfilled by the Medical Officer of Health and by the skilful and early application of these services many an old person can be saved from breakdown. Action therefore under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, which indeed amounts to the compulsory removal of old people against their will, but in their best interests, can often be avoided.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

**Water Supplies.**—All the Parishes of the District, with the exception of the small hamlet of Fawsley, have water mains, provided by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. The very isolated farms and cottages remain without a mains supply, which is not economic to provide. The District can now be considered to have a satisfactory supply. There is much gratification that this Council is embodied in the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. The outcome of this was very obvious during the year, which resulted in a very low rainfall, but the District, like all other constituent members, enjoyed a freedom from water shortage, and the Board are to be congratulated on the maintenance of supplies throughout the year. All public water supplies were regularly analysed by the Board and under constant treatment by chlorination. The imperative necessity of proper sewage works in the villages with a now abundant water supply cannot be too strongly emphasised.

Enquiries made as to condition of supplies	...	...	114
Number of water samples analysed	...	...	17
Number of samples satisfactory after analysis	...	...	12
Number of samples unsatisfactory after analysis	...	...	5
Informal notices sent regarding water supplies	...	...	10

The unsatisfactory samples were, in all cases, samples of water taken from outlying properties. Thorough cleansing of wells, and in some cases installation of a small chlorination plant, resulted in satisfactory supplies.

# STATISTICS SHOWING HOUSES WITH PIPED OR NON-PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	PIPED SUPPLIES		NON-PIPED SUPPLIES		
	No. of houses with Laid-on Supply	Stand Tap Supply	Parish Well	No. of houses with Private Well	Spring Supply
Ashby St. Ledgers	39	7		5	
Badby	127	30		15	
Barby	117	3		15	
Braunston	345	15		16	
Brockhall	5			4	
Byfield	275	2		19	
Canons Ashby	6	4		4	
Catesby	22			6	
Charwelton	48			6	
Clay Coton	16			3	
Crick	234	7		14	
Dodford	32	15		9	
Elkington				18	1
Everdon	135			7	
Farthingstone	38	15		7	
Fawsley	3			6	
Flore	316	15		10	
Hellidon	53			5	
Kilsby	194			16	
Lilbourne	70			8	
Long Buckby	834	13		15	
Newnham	121			14	
Norton	57	31		14	
Preston Capes	48			12	
Stanford	10			3	
Staverton	107			6	
Stowe-IX-Churches	30	24		16	
Watford	69	12		14	
Weedon Bec	438	9		14	
Welton	102	13		7	
West Haddon	225	24		12	
Whilton	35	15		12	
Winwick	32	2		1	
Woodford Halse	596	2		20	
Yelvertoft	101	28		12	
	<hr/> 4880 <hr/>	<hr/> 286 <hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/> 365 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

It is pleasing to report that a start was made on the new sewers and sewage disposal schemes for the parishes of Lilbourne and Yelvertoft, and from the meetings of the Public Health Committee it was evident that further new schemes would be put into operation as soon as it was expedient to do so. There was, as always, an earnest desire by the Committee to make progress in this field of local authority work, but expenditure has of necessity had to be curtailed. With the great majority of the parishes of the District now provided with mains water supplies the provision of new sewage disposal schemes is of major importance to the general health of the District.

The general drainage position in all the sewered parishes was satisfactory, although in one or two of these parishes urgent attention will have to be given to the modernisation of the existing sewage disposal works, which in some cases are old and not capable of satisfactorily dealing with the increased amount of sewerage flowing to them for treatment. In other parishes the drainage position is not so satisfactory, although a number of dwellings have their own septic tanks for the treatment of sewage

Parishes of the District with sewage disposal works were as follows:--

Ashby St. Ledgers	Newnham
Badby	Staverton
Barby	Watford
Braunston	Weedon Bec
Byfield	West Haddon
Crick	Winwick
Flore	Woodford Halse
Kilsby	Yelvertoft (part sewercd)
Long Buckby	

While there were also temporary schemes at Charwelton and Lilbourne and a temporary scheme for part of the village of Welton.

**Disinfection.**—Disinfection was carried out at homes from which infectious diseases of a certain nature were notified.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No cases were brought to notice.

**Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936, section 269.**—Six licences to use caravans as dwellings were granted, and 17 licences to use caravans as dwellings were renewed.

**Schools.**—The school premises in the District were generally satisfactory. There is one private school in the District.

**PESTS ACT, 1949.**—The Council's scheme of operating this Act, by a part-time operative, was continued during the year with good results. The table given below shows the amount of work done. Very few infestations were found during the visits, and does prove the success of the scheme in the District. There were naturally a few premises with minor infestations, which were dealt with. The Council's sewers and refuse tips were regularly inspected and treated as necessary; all sewers were baited and treated as required. The mileage covered by the van was less than that for previous years, the chief reason being the new technique in treating sewers with a new product, i.e., sewer warfarin. This method meant that poisoning commenced from the day of it being put down, instead of having to bait for a few days checking the amount of bait take and then following up with poisoned bait.

Inspections to private dwellings	...	...	...	...	478
Inspections to council houses	...	...	...	...	482
Inspections to farm premises	...	...	...	...	77
Treatments to private dwellings		...	...	...	112
Treatments to council houses	...	...	...	...	34
Total visits during treatments	...	...	...	...	700
Number of sewer manholes baited	...	...	...	...	878
Number of follow-up treatments	...	...	...	...	2334
Number of treatments to sewage works		...	...	...	58
Number of follow-up treatments	...	...	...	...	187
Number of treatments to refuse tips	...	...	...	...	82
Number of follow-up treatments	...	...	...	...	398
Total mileage covered by the van	...	...	...	1,951 miles	
Poisons used:—94lbs. 8ozs. Warfarin; 5ozs. Zinc Phosphide; 134lbs. Sewer Warfarin.					
Baits used:— 950lbs. Pinhead Oatmeal; 49lbs. Sausage Rusk.					

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937 to 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the  
Year 1959 for the Rural District of Daventry in the County of Northants.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

### PART 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	69	65	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .....	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total...	69	65	5	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	6	6	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	2	2	—	1	—
Total	5	5	—	3	—

**PART VIII OF THE ACT**  
**Outwork**  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	SECTION 110		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing Making Apparel etc.	1	—	—
Nature of work	SECTION 111		
	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Making Apparel etc.	—	—	—

Only 1 list of Outworkers was received.

**Refuse and Salvage Collection.**—The regular weekly collection of household refuse and salvage was maintained throughout the District, and there was little complaint from the District concerning this work. As in the previous year, the amount of refuse collected increased, but the amount of ash collected decreased to a very marked degree. Many dustbins appeared to be just full of dirty paper, vegetable refuse, and tins, etc. This type of refuse is most difficult to dispose of satisfactorily, and further there were a number of fires started on tips, due, possibly, in some cases, to the action of the hot sun on glass, but in other cases it was evident that fires had been started deliberately. These tip fires have caused some expense to smother or put out. The Council purchased a second and larger refuse collection vehicle during the year, and a decrease in costs has been noticeable. The collection of waste paper, etc. continued, and a total of £477 12s. 7d. was received for the sale of this salvage. This showed an increase compared with the previous year.

**Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936:—**

Number of licences granted	...	...	...	...	4
Number of licences renewed	...	...	...	...	75
Number of Carbide of Calcium licences renewed					1
Number of licences for Cellulose Solutions renewed				...	1

**Public Health Act, 1936 (Part X) Canal Boats:—**

During the year two canal boats were extensively overhauled and re-registered with the Council.

## HOUSING

Compared with 28 new council house dwellings allocated and tenanted last year, this year there were only 20 such houses. This conformed to National policy which restricted our activities to building for Slum Clearance only.

There was an increase in the numbers of existing council houses becoming vacant, and by this means 48 families were rehoused, so that for the year a total of 76 council dwellings were allocated.

The waiting list was completely re-checked during the year, and as a result of this 315 applicants remained on the list at the end of the year.

Steady progress was maintained in connection with Slum Clearance, and houses were dealt with either as Individual Demolition Orders, Closing Orders, or Undertakings were accepted, but no Clearance Areas were made. A table showing progress with the Slum Clearance programme is given in a later part of this report.

Twenty new council dwellings were completed and occupied during the year:—

Badby 2 bungalows and 6 houses  
Braunston 2 bungalows and 6 houses  
Kilsby 4 bungalows

while a further 22 privately owned dwellings were completed and occupied.

The following council dwellings were in course of erection at the end of the year:—

Kilsby 6 houses  
Byfield 8 houses, 4 bungalows  
Braunston 2 bungalows (further dwellings in contract not started)  
Weedon 6 houses and 4 bungalows  
Yelvertoft 4 houses (further 4 in contract not started)

Council houses re-let by parish representatives	48
Council house tenants given permission to take lodger	16
Council house tenants refused permission to take lodger	2
Internal exchange of council houses permitted	3
External exchange of council houses permitted	4
External exchange of council houses refused	1
Internal exchange from private house to council house	1

## HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

### Housing Act, 1949, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 Rents Act, 1957 and Housing ((Financial Provisions) Act 1958

The year showed an increase in the numbers of applications for Improvement Grant to properties, and also the completion of works previously approved. At mid-year the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into operation. This, amongst other things, divided the grants towards house improvements into two categories, i.e., Discretionary Grant and Standard Grant. The Discretionary Grant took the place of previous scheme, demanding a good standard of property, etc., but the Standard Grant was for the provision of five standard amenities, i.e., fixed bath, wash-hand basin, hot water supply, food store, and water closet, and so long as the applicant was the bona-fide owner and the property had a life of at least 15 years, this grant could be applied for as a "right."

The summaries given below show the amount of work which has been necessary for the approval of applications:—

#### Discretionary Grant

Number of applications received	33
Number of applications rejected after inspection, due to failure to comply with the regulations	6
	<hr/>
Number of applications approved by the Council	27
	<hr/>
Total cost of Improvements Grants approved	£5,926 17 6
(of this total the Council contribute 25% and the Ministry the remainder)	
Total estimated costs of Improvements approved	£13,867 5 4

Since the Acts came into operation 218 applications for grants have been received. Of these 18 were withdrawn by the applicants; 47 were rejected after inspection due to failure to comply with the requirements of the Acts; 153 applications have been approved, costing some £32,596 17s. 7d. in Improvement Grant. By the end of the year works in respect of 131 applications had been completed and grant paid.

#### Standard Grants

Number of applications received	30
Number of applications not approved	1
	<hr/>
Number approved	29

The number of grants approved showed a total amount of grant to be paid as £3,155 0s. 0d. By the end of the year 6 properties were completed and grants paid.

## Housing Acts, 1936—57:—

### 1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1412
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	1665
(ii)		Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	70
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	35
(iv)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35

### 2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—

	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Public Health Inspector	31
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### 3.—A. Action by Local Authority under the Housing and Public Health Acts by serving informal notices:—

(a)	Under the Housing Acts:—	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs	35
	Number of houses rendered fit after service of informal notice:—	
	By owners	35
	By Council in default of owner	—
(b)	Under the Public Health Act:—	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	29
	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
	By owners	29
	By Council in default of owner	—

B.—Proceedings under sections 16 and 17 Housing Act, 1957:—

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, by owners	12
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily demolished in consequence of informal action	2
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertakings were given by the owners	14
(v) Number of Undertakings cancelled, the houses having been made fit	4
(vi) Number of dwelling-houses upgraded to either category "2" or "1" by reason of repairs being carried out	19
(vii) Number of separate dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	8
(viii) Number of separate dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	5
(ix) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made and were subsequently demolished by owners	2

**Overcrowding.—**

As the result of the Council's own re-housing, it was known that 8 cases of overcrowding, involving some 37 persons, were abated.

## Housing Acts, 1936—37.

No Clearance Orders were made by the Council during the year. Slum clearance work was entirely carried out under sections 16 and 17 of the 1957 Act, and is given on previous page of this report.

The following table shows the progress of Slum Clearance in the District, since August, 1955 to 31st December, 1959:—

(a) Number of houses dealt with in Clearance Areas	84
(b) Number of houses in Clearance Areas now demolished	72
(c) Number of dwelling-houses dealt with as Individual Demolition Orders	38
(d) Number of dwelling-houses dealt with as Individuals and subsequently made fit	3
(e) Number of dwelling-houses dealt with as Individuals and Demolished	28
(f) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	92
(g) Number of dwelling-houses dealt with as Closing Orders and subsequently made fit	18
(h) Number of dwelling-houses dealt with as Closing Orders and demolished	12
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted	87
(j) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertakings were cancelled, the houses being made fit	16
(k) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted and houses subsequently demolished	8
(l) Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily demolished after informal action by the Public Health Inspector	21
(m) Number of dwelling-houses up-graded in category, as a result of repairs and improvements being carried out	69
(n) Number of houses dealt with in previous Clearance Areas and demolished in 1959	12

The Council's first Five Years' Plan, submitted in August, 1955, outlined as a beginning an attempt to deal with 294 houses, but the progress made has gone well beyond this figure, and in the four and a half years 390 houses had been dealt with.

It will be necessary for the Council to formulate a further Five Years' programme, and it seemed that an attempt would be made to deal with about 228 houses in the next five years. The problem of owner-occupied houses of category "5" would appear to create some concern to the Council. In addition the numbers of aged persons living in category "5" houses will make it necessary to take action as soon as the present tenancy of these houses ceases.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**Milk Supply.**—The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, came into operation on the 8th March, 1959, and brought earlier regulations into line with modern methods of milk production, thus simplifying much of the former procedure and making it easier for the production of milk in up-to-date conditions.

The enforcement of the regulations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, and as regards distribution and infected milk the local authority.

All milk sold in the area is "Designated" of one type or other, and supplies generally were satisfactory throughout the District.

A brucella infection was found at two farms in the District and alternative supplies to customers had to be found by the producers concerned so long as the prohibition notices were in force. Each notice was served by an adjoining Local Authority. After various tests and inoculations by the Ministry's Veterinary Inspectors the affected herds were declared "free" from infection.

15 Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk were renewed.

4 Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk were renewed.

9 Dealers' Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were renewed.

4 Supplementary Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were renewed.

**Bakehouses.**—There still remained the few bakehouses in the District. All were frequently inspected and in two cases it was necessary to serve informal cleansing notices.

**Shops.**—The shops in the District were generally satisfactorily maintained. All were inspected during the course of the year, some more frequently than others, and particular attention has been paid to cafes, etc.

Below is a table showing the various types of shops in the District:—

Bakehouses and Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Boot and Shoes only	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	20
Cafes	...	...	...	...	8
Canteens	...	...	...	...	4
Chemists	...	...	...	...	3
Clubs	...	...	...	...	6
Confectionery only	...	...	...	...	2
Cycles only	...	...	...	...	3
Drapery Only	...	...	...	...	10
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	6
Fried Fish Shops (1 closed during the year)	...	...	...	...	1
General Stores	...	...	...	...	74
Hairdressers only	...	...	...	...	4
Hardware, etc., only	...	...	...	...	4
Paints only	...	...	...	...	1
Post Offices only	...	...	...	...	10
Post Offices and General Stores	...	...	...	...	14
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	62
Public Houses, also eating places	...	...	...	...	5
Stationery only	...	...	...	...	3

As a result of shop inspections, 10 informal notices were served requiring cleansing, etc.

The amount of food (excepting meat) condemned as being unfit for human consumption showed a still further considerable decrease.

**Meat.**—Eight slaughterhouses were in constant use throughout the year, although in two cases only sheep and pigs were slaughtered. This has entailed a considerable amount of time spent on the examination of meat, before sale to the public. A number of butchers continued to buy carcase meat off wholesalers. Before the end of the year, the new Regulations for Slaughterhouses were considered by the authority and much thought was given as to the future of slaughterhouses in the District. Most of them are old structurally, and to bring about the necessary alterations and improvements to comply with the regulations would mean a great expense to many of the slaughterhouse owners. The Council's report on existing slaughterhouses would be submitted to the Minister early in the new year. So far as possible, all meat slaughtered in the District has been examined, and at Crick particularly this has meant daily visits. No unsound meat was found exposed for sale; 24 licences to persons to act as slaughtermen were renewed.

The table below shows the carcasses inspected and the incidence of any disease evident at those inspections:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclud Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) .. ..	1017	31	2	—	772
Number inspected .. ..	1017	31	2	6946	772
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	222	6	—	180	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci .. ..	21.7	19.3	—	2.6	0.26
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	36	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	3.6	—	—	—	0.64
<b>Cysticercosis:</b>					
Carcases of which some part was condemned .. ..	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. ..	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

There was no slaughtering of horses for food for human consumption.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

258 cases of infectious disease were notified, showing a considerable increase on last year's figure of 64. This was due to the increase in measles notifications, which continues in its biennial incidence.

**Measles.**—This disease, though highly infectious, is now, like scarlet fever, of a benign character, seldom showing serious complication. However in the more delicate and occasionally in normal children the unpleasant complication of eye or ear infection or pneumonia still occur. These complications are, however, usually soon and successfully dealt with by the large number of effective antibiotics that are now available.

**Whooping Cough.**—A further drop in notifications. The County Council and many general practitioners have now adopted the method of early immunisation to this illness, starting at 2—3 months, and it is to be hoped that there will be many fewer cases of this disease, which when it attacks in early infancy is so distressing and often dangerous.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Many of these cases were associated with an outbreak in the Infants' School at Long Buckby, and the illness was without exception very mild and no serious complications resulted.

**Poliomyelitis.**—No cases occurred. This is gratifying, and now with very large numbers immunised it is hoped that there will be a steady decline in incidence and severity of this infection. It has been found that with the immunisation of a high percentage of the population there is a decline of circulating virus in the community, and though themselves not immunised this helps to protect the other members of the community from infection.

**Dysentery.**—11 cases were notified (7 last year); 8 were from Woodford Halse, where a small outbreak took place in the Infants' School. In this instance we received notification of the early cases, and by instituting strict hygiene measures at such an early stage were able to control the outbreak. It was, however, considered that there were a number of cases in addition to those notified who had only suffered mildly and who had never reported to their doctor. Very often this illness has reached its peak in the community before one is aware of the infection, and particularly in an Infants' School, it is difficult to prevent spread of infection. When large numbers are already affected and have made clinical recovery it is not always practicable or reasonable to insist on laboratory examination of all who have suffered and of their contacts. Strict measures are always insisted on (a) where there is any suspicion that a food handler may be involved, (b) where vulnerable members, e.g., infants or the infirm or aged may be affected, and (c) where the infection is in its early stages and there are few cases affected, then the supervision of these early cases may well prevent an outbreak, as it did in this case.

**Influenza.**—Eight deaths are recorded. The number of cases during the year is not known, but the incidence of infection was lower than last year. We note with concern the high number of deaths.

**Pneumonia.**—Eight deaths are recorded. Though deaths from pneumonia, once a great killer, especially in the elderly, have largely declined, an attack of pneumonia in the vulnerable may still indeed prove fatal. The respiratory infections still constitute a very serious public health problem. They are the cause of much ill-health, and remain the greatest factor in loss of working hours. Infection may range from the common cold to pneumonia, and further knowledge of the etiological factors in this group of illnesses is a pressing need, so that they may finally be controlled.

**Food Poisoning.**—One case of Salmonella Newport occurred, in a farmer living in a lone farm-house. There were no other cases. Contacts were investigated and found negative. Infection was thought to have come from rodents or hens, or possibly from the eating of unwashed and contaminated fruit. The illness was mild and recovery was speedy.

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Measles .. ..	25	49	13	12	20	61	23	7	1	—	—	—	211
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Scarlet Fever ..	1	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	9	1	24
Pneumonia .. .	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery .. .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	11
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	27	55	18	14	21	62	24	9	2	5	10	11	258

# Parish Distribution of Infectious Diseases

PARISH	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>	<i>Encephalitis</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	Total
Ashby St. Ledgers ..	1								1
Badby .. ..			2						2
Barby .. ..	10		1						11
Braunston .. ..	3			1					4
Byfield .. ..	52			1		1			54
Clay Coton .. ..	5								5
Crick .. ..	1								1
Dodford .. ..	4								4
Elkington .. ..	1								1
Everdon .. ..					1				1
Kilsby .. ..		2							2
Lilbourne .. ..	2	1							3
Long Buckby .. ..	8		20					1	29
Newnham .. ..	1								1
Norton .. ..	3								3
Preston Capes .. ..							2		2
Stanford .. ..	2								2
Staverton .. ..							1		1
Stowe-IX-Churches ..		1							1
Weedon .. ..	1			1					2
Welton .. ..	1								1
West Haddon .. ..	17								17
Wilton .. ..	1			1					2
Winwick .. ..	1								1
Woodford Halse .. ..	50						8	1	59
Yelvertoft .. ..	47		1						48
Totals	211	4	24	4	1	1	11	2	258

**Tuberculosis.**—The number of new cases notified, increased by 1 compared with the previous year, there being 8 new cases; 7 were respiratory (3 males and 4 females) and 1 other form of tuberculosis (a male). There was 1 death recorded from tuberculosis.

The following tables show the present condition regarding Tuberculosis in the District:—

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths, 1959								
Age Group Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other		Respiratory		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15—24	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
over 55	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—

Cases on the Register and other relevant details regarding Tuberculosis cases for 1959

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	Respiratory	Other	Respiratory	Other	
Notified 1959 .. ..	3	1	4	—	8
Left District .. ..	1	—	—	1	2
Cured .. .. .	—	—	1	—	1
CASES REMAINING ON THE REGISTER	30	5	34	13	82

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The numbers of children immunised to diphtheria and whooping cough showed an increase, but is still below what is desirable. A slight increase in the numbers receiving booster immunisation is also shown, but remains still below the numbers necessary. Small outbreaks of diphtheria do occur still and, once more the necessity for immunisation against diphtheria is stressed. The introduction of immunisation at an early age will we hope prevent some of the most distressing cases of whooping cough, those which occur in young infants. However, when combined immunisation is introduced at an early age, the need for reinforcing doses is very necessary, as the duration of immunity to the first doses is limited.

Details of work carried out during the year 1959 in connection with the prevention of diphtheria, whooping cough, small-pox, and poliomyelitis:

### SMALL-POX VACCINATION

	under				15 or over	total
	1	1	2—4	5—14		
Primary	138	2	16	4	11	171
Re-Vaccination			1	2	36	39

### POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

under								3rd injs.	15 or over	3rd injs.
1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total	0—14		
20	134	42	33	18	133	137	517	1754	767	494

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

under								Total	Booster
	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14		
Diphtheria									
Immunisation only	5	1	6	1	1	5	1	20	43
Combined Diphtheria—									
Whooping Cough	152	19	14	6	1	4	2	198	46
Total Diphtheria									
Immunisation	157	20	20	7	2	9	3	218	89
Whooping Cough only	21	1	2	1	—	2	—	27	—

### Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Under								Total
	1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	
Age at 31.12.59						1950	1945	under
i.e. born in year	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1949	15
Number Immunised	47	180	183	198	157	902	898	2565

The County Council are to be congratulated on the completion of the very large numbers of poliomyelitis vaccinations.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Crude Rate	Under 1 Year		All Ages	
				No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1948	15,850	281	17.6	6	21.0	167	10.60
1949	15,900	250	15.7	14	56.0	217	16.10
1950	15,840	255	16.0	5	19.6	190	11.90
1951	16,290	274	16.9	4	14.6	201	12.30
1952	16,440	236	14.3	7	29.6	182	11.07
1953	16,480	252	15.29	7	27.7	162	9.83
1954	16,590	257	15.27	2	7.7	202	12.18
1955	16,550	222	13.3	5	22.5	192	11.6
1956	16,490	265	16.09	5	22.5	185	11.21
1957	16,450	269	16.35	5	18.58	197	11.97
1958	16,370	267	16.3	9	33.7	196	11.36
1959	16,480	248	15.05	3	11.8	185	11.2



